

VERTICAL FILE

J. M. C. Opening addresses *for the*

Nov. 5. 1858.

THE LATE PROFESSOR J. K. MITCHELL, M.D.

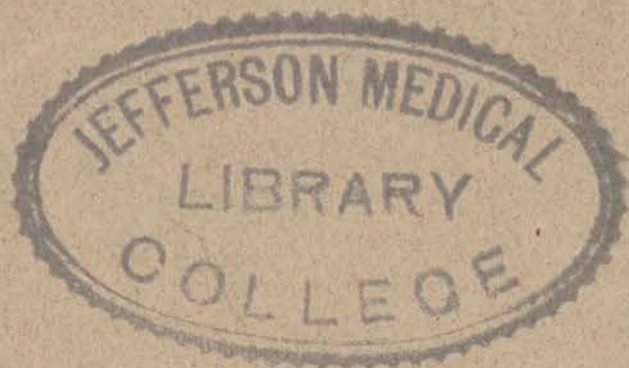
PROFESSOR DUNGLISON'S

Preliminary Remarks.

Practice Medicine
1858

PROFESSOR DICKSON'S

Inaugural Lecture.



VERTICAL FILE

THE LATE PROF. J. K. MITCHELL, M. D.

INAUGURAL LECTURE

TO THE COURSE ON THE

PRACTICE OF MEDICINE,

IN THE

Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia,

DELIVERED OCTOBER 12, 1858,

BY PROF. SAM'L HENRY DICKSON, M.D., LL.D.

PRECEDED BY

PRELIMINARY REMARKS

TO AN

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE

TO THE COURSE ON THE

INSTITUTES OF MEDICINE,

DELIVERED OCTOBER 11, 1858,

BY PROF. ROBLEY DUNGLISON, M. D., LL. D.

PUBLISHED BY THE CLASS.

PHILADELPHIA:
JOSEPH M. WILSON,
NO. 111 SOUTH TENTH STREET, BELOW CHESTNUT.
1858.

THE CORRESPONDENCE OF
JAMES M. COOK

James M. Cook to the Admiralty, 1781

My dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the proposed voyage of the *Endeavour* to the South Sea, &c. &c. I am very glad to hear that you are so desirous of promoting the progress of knowledge in the natural history of our country, and that you are so anxious to see the *Endeavour* equipped for the purpose. I am, however, sorry to hear that you are so much distressed by the want of money. I am, however, very sensible of the importance of the voyage, and I am very desirous to see it accomplished. I am, therefore, very glad to hear that you are so desirous of promoting the progress of knowledge in the natural history of our country, and that you are so anxious to see the *Endeavour* equipped for the purpose. I am, however, sorry to hear that you are so much distressed by the want of money. I am, however, very sensible of the importance of the voyage, and I am very desirous to see it accomplished.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
James M. Cook

THE CORRESPONDENCE OF
JAMES M. COOK

James M. Cook to the Admiralty, 1781
My dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the proposed voyage of the *Endeavour* to the South Sea, &c. &c. I am very glad to hear that you are so desirous of promoting the progress of knowledge in the natural history of our country, and that you are so anxious to see the *Endeavour* equipped for the purpose. I am, however, sorry to hear that you are so much distressed by the want of money. I am, however, very sensible of the importance of the voyage, and I am very desirous to see it accomplished. I am, therefore, very glad to hear that you are so desirous of promoting the progress of knowledge in the natural history of our country, and that you are so anxious to see the *Endeavour* equipped for the purpose. I am, however, sorry to hear that you are so much distressed by the want of money. I am, however, very sensible of the importance of the voyage, and I am very desirous to see it accomplished.

11/14
J
Franklin Bache, Esq.

CORRESPONDENCE.

JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE, PHILA., Oct. 18, 1858.

PROFESSOR S. H. DICKSON:

Dear Sir,—At a meeting of the students of the Jefferson Medical College, held this day, P. F. Whitehead, of Ky., was called to the chair, and A. N. Thomas, of Miss., was appointed secretary.

On motion of G. G. Griffin, of Ga., the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That a committee of six be appointed by the chair to wait on Dr. S. H. Dickson, and solicit a copy, for publication, of his Introductory Address.

We, the undersigned committee, appointed under the above resolution, take great pleasure in performing the agreeable duty assigned us, and most respectfully and earnestly ask permission to publish your instructive and eloquent lecture.

Permit us, individually, to express the hope that you will sanction this request. We beg leave to subscribe ourselves, respectfully and truly,

Your obedient servants,

G. G. GRIFFIN, Ga., *Chairman*,
H. STOCKDELL, Va.,
L. A. WISELY, Mo.,

WALTER WALKER, N. Y.,
JAMES NEAL, S. C.,
E. B. P. KELLY, M. D., Pa.

October 20th, 1858.

To Messrs. GRIFFIN, STOCKDELL, WALKER, NEAL, KELLY, and WISELY, Committee of the Class of Jefferson Medical College:

GENTLEMEN,—I received, late last evening, your letter of the 18th, conveying the resolution expressive of the wishes of “the students of Jefferson Medical College” in regard to the Introductory Lecture read to them on Tuesday, 12th inst.

A request, offered in a manner so agreeable and complimentary, admits of but one reply from me; and I hasten to place the paper at their disposal, and in your hands.

Do me the favour to present my acknowledgments to the gentlemen of the class for the cordial reception with which they honoured me; and accept for yourselves my thanks for the courteous terms of your communication.

Very respectfully, your friend and obedient servant,

SAM'L HENRY DICKSON.

PHILADELPHIA, October 20, 1858.

PROFESSOR ROBLEY DUNGLISON:

Dear Sir,—At a meeting of the students of the Jefferson Medical College, held October 18th, Mr. P. F. Whitehead, of Ky., was called to the chair, and Mr. A. N. Thomas, of Miss., was appointed secretary.

On motion of A. E. Sudler, of Md., the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to wait on Dr. Dunglison, and solicit a copy of his Introductory Address, for publication.

We, the undersigned committee, appointed under the above resolution, most respectfully and earnestly beg of you a copy of your able, instructive, and eloquent address, for publication.

Permit us, individually and on behalf of the class, to express the hope that this request may meet with your sanction.

We beg leave to subscribe ourselves yours, most respectfully,

J. BERNARD BRINTON, Md.,

D. B. BENSON, Va.,

RICH'D W. WARD, N. C.,

WM. C. BOON, Mo.,

AUGUSTUS R. CANFIELD, Miss.

1116 GIRARD STREET, October 23, 1858.

GENTLEMEN:

In reply to your complimentary note to me of the 20th inst., stating that you were appointed a committee, by the students of the Jefferson Medical College, to request of me a copy of my Introductory Address for publication, I have the pleasure to send you the preliminary remarks made by me on the death of my honoured friend and colleague, Prof. J. K. Mitchell, and on the appointment and presentation of his accomplished successor, Prof. Dickson.

I beg of you to say to the class how highly I appreciate this evidence of their kindness, and how truly I am theirs, and yours, faithfully,

ROBLEY DUNGLISON.

Messrs. J. BERNARD BRINTON, RICH'D W. WARD, D. B. BENSON, WM. C. BOON,
and AUGUSTUS R. CANFIELD, Committee, &c.

General Committee of one from each State or Country.

J. DAN'L SPICER.....North Carolina.
P. F. WHITEHEAD.....Kentucky.
I. F. WILLIAMS.....Mississippi.
GEO. G. GRIFFIN.....Georgia.
J. H. PURIFOY.....Alabama.
WM. M. KING, M. D.....Pennsylvania.
FRANCIS E. BOND, M. D.....South America.
JOS. A. BLICK.....Virginia.
ARTHUR SEYDEL.....Nicaragua.
S. K. REDDISH.....Missouri.
GEO. D. GRAFTON.....Arkansas.
W. Y. SHARP.....Ohio.
JAMES BRICKELL MURFREE.....Tennessee.
L. M. CARN.....Florida.
A. H. SMITH.....Canada West.
T. U. COE.....Maine.
A. J. STEELE.....New York.
W. T. THOMAS.....South Carolina.
WILLIAM MITCHELL.....Nova Scotia.
J. B. PREWITT.....Texas.
E. R. DEVAULT.....Indiana.
S. S. MAYNARD.....Maryland.
JOB BRADDOCK SOMERS.....New Jersey.
I. U. HALL.....California.
CELEDO CARBONELL.....Antilles.
W. L. GREEN.....Michigan.
SAMUEL D. MARSHALL.....Delaware.
B. F. LONGNECKER.....Illinois.
EDWARD T. CASWELL.....Rhode Island.
GEO. W. SNOW.....Massachusetts.
JAMES CHRISTIE, M. D.....New Brunswick.
JOSEPH F. SMITH, M. D.....Kansas Territory.
THOS. W. FOLEY.....Louisiana.

THE FOLLOWING REMARKS

GENTLEMEN:
For upwards of a third of a century I have presided
myself actually at the head of a large and illustrious
national students' body, and I have often with many
occasions, I have often with many, many, and varied
many, and varied students, and many, and varied
Not do I envy the teacher who can only minister
upon others to achieve and to receive in those things
volved upon us here.
Who indeed could see before him a whole generation
five, four, or three, of the most illustrious, and
and every one of them, and every one of them, and
listen to him, and listen to him, and listen to him,
case in his own part in the instruction, and in the
pursue to the end of their career, and to the end of
bilities, and to the end of their career, and to the end of
And it is necessary that the student should be
ed character, and to the end of their career, and to the end of
it be necessary to understand the character of the student,
non with the world of science, and to the end of their career,
by the death of the student, and to the end of their career,
years had been, and to the end of their career, and to the end of
Medicine, and who was necessary to the end of their career,
You in his school as well as in his profession, and to the end of
At the commencement of the last year, and to the end of
times it was made my duty to announce to the class the

PRELIMINARY REMARKS,

BY PROFESSOR DUNGLISON.

GENTLEMEN :

For upwards of a third of a century I have presented myself annually, at this season, before a class of professional students; yet, veteran as I am in the cause, such an occasion, I have often said, never fails to produce in me many and varied emotions.

Nor do I envy the teacher who can enter, unmoved, upon duties so arduous and so responsible as those that devolve upon us here.

Who, indeed, could see before him youthful representatives from every portion of this almost illimitable Union, and even from distant countries, assembled together to listen daily to his lessons, and placing their hopes of success in life, in part, on the instruction which he may dispense to them, without feeling an overwhelming responsibility, and an incentive to untiring exertion?

And if, on occasions like this, unattended with unwonted circumstances, emotion is inevitable, how greatly must it be augmented under the loss which this College, in common with the world of science and letters, has sustained by the death of my excellent colleague, who, for so many years, had occupied so ably the chair of the Practice of Medicine, and who was so endeared to us, and to many of you, in his social as well as professorial relations.

At the commencement of the last two sessions of lectures, it was made my duty to announce to the class the re-

signation, from indisposition, of two valued colleagues, and to herald the advent of their successors.

Although withdrawn from the sphere of their honored labours, my former colleagues still live, and, as *Professores Emeriti*, are destined to remain long, I trust, connected with the Institution which they served so beneficially and so harmoniously, and to pass many, many years of unalloyed happiness and dignified retirement.

The first break, by death, in the corps of Professors appointed in 1841, has been experienced since I took leave of my class in this hall.

They who followed the last two courses of instruction in this College are aware, that the health of Professor Mitchell had been seriously impaired by two attacks of paralysis, occurring at some distance from each other. Yet, although his physical powers were manifestly enfeebled, at no time were his arduous duties executed with more determined vigour; and I doubt whether ever his lessons were more attractive and satisfactory in every relation than during the past two sessions.

It seemed as if the conviction—generally entertained, and too often confirmed by observation—that diminished intellection must accompany every paralytic seizure of the kind under which he suffered had aroused his manly spirit to the demonstration, that he, at least, was an exception to the rule; and how well he succeeded the members of his class can testify.

Deeply impressed was he, however, with the frail and uncertain tenure of his existence; and when a question arose as to whether the graduates, on the evening of the day of commencement, should be entertained at his house, or by one of his colleagues, he begged that he might have that satisfaction, as he might not live to embrace another opportunity.

Many of you who are now before me, know how cheer-

fully, and even actively, he received you on that occasion; and many a sad recollection will exist in the minds of the graduating class of 1857, '58, of that last communion with their venerated and beloved instructor.

In less than a month after this, and when, apparently, in the enjoyment of more than his usual health, he was suddenly attacked with symptoms of the malady—typhoid pneumonia—which terminated his valuable life on the fourth day of April, in spite of every effort suggested by skill and affection.

The loss of a colleague so distinguished—of a teacher so capable and zealous—of a husband and father so full of affection—and of a member of society so exemplary—was felt by us as a grievous calamity.

The Board of Trustees of the College published to the world their high sense of the eminent services of their deceased Professor—"one of the most valued members," as they properly designated him, "of Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia;" and the Faculty hastened to record their estimate of his rare qualities as a Professor and an associate in these heartfelt and glowing terms:

"Ever since the reorganization of the school, in the year 1841, Professor Mitchell took a zealous and active part in its management, and in the important instruction delivered therein; and it may be safely affirmed, that in his anxious and well-directed efforts for the best interests of the Institution, and of the vast numbers of pupils who have flocked to its halls, he has been exceeded by none.

"As an associate, his deportment to his brethren of the Faculty was ever courteous and conciliating; and in the numerous acts, which led to the unprecedented success and development of the school, he participated largely, energetically and ably.

"The loss of one so admirably qualified for his responsi-

ble office as a Professor,—of an associate so endeared,—is, indeed, most profoundly mourned by his colleagues.”

It would have been a melancholy satisfaction to me to dwell upon the many virtues of my lamented friend; to follow him in his progress from dawning manhood to the close of his prolific and most useful labours; and to detail to you the numerous contributions for which science and literature are so much indebted to him, had not the office been properly undertaken by my able friend, who succeeds him in the department which he adorned in this Institution; who had ample opportunities for knowing him *intus et in cute*, and, from the time they were fellow-students of the same exalted profession until death severed the connexion, was linked to him by bonds of the warmest and truest friendship.

Deeply solicitous for the continued prosperity of a school which had been so eminently successful, and in the maintenance of which they believed, in all humility, that not only its numerous Alumni, but all who are concerned in the great cause of medical education, were interested, the attention of the Faculty was at once directed to the selection of a successor to their lamented colleague.

Their sole desire was to obtain the services of one who had been honorably known and esteemed in the dignified position of an eloquent teacher of the *science*, for *it* is the only sure foundation for the *practice* of medicine; who had enjoyed ample opportunities for observing disease, and had exhibited his skill in the management of it; who was admitted to be an able author on professional subjects, and, as an accomplished and liberal gentleman, would be a desirable addition to the Faculty of Professors; amiable in all his relations with the numerous students, who would flock to the school, in part, to listen to the emanations from his cultivated mind; and whose very name would be a source

of confidence to the profession. And they felt justified in assuming, from what they knew of the sentiments of several members of the Board of Trustees, that the wish of the Board would be to ensure, so far as might be in their power, the harmony, stability and reputation of the Institution; so that—as I stated at the time of the reorganization, in 1841—“hereafter, and in the lapse of years, her numerous alumni might be able to exclaim, with pride and exultation, ‘It was from this flourishing and distinguished school that we received the highest honours of our profession!’”

Nor were they disappointed. Although the horizon of their choice was unbounded, the Faculty unanimously agreed that all the exalted qualifications I have enumerated were combined in him who now appears before you for the first time, in this hall, as incumbent of the chair of Practice of Medicine.

It would be a work of supererogation, and it might savour of indelicacy, were I to say more than this of him in his presence. The voice of the profession has, indeed, pronounced, in unmistakable language, on his professional qualifications, and admiring classes have annually testified to his signal accomplishments as a teacher.

Whilst, then, in the name of the Faculty, I cordially welcome you to these halls,—the scene, I trust, of honorable and successful exertion on your parts,—you will, I know, cheerfully join us in fervently greeting our new colleague on his advent among us, and in wishing him a long career of happy and distinguished usefulness.

INAUGURAL LECTURE,

BY PROFESSOR DICKSON.

I APPEAR before you here, gentlemen, for the first time, under circumstances strongly impressive, and calculated to arouse in my mind the most profound emotion.

I am called to occupy—I have not the presumption to expect *to fill*—the place left vacant by the death of a beloved friend, endeared to me by a life-long attachment of mutual tenderness and affection; whom I especially esteemed and honoured, honoured and esteemed as he was by all around him, and whose loss the community, and above all this Institution, has not ceased to deplore.

I find myself associated with colleagues who have nobly earned the brightest laurels of professional reputation on this loftiest arena; with whom to be thus invited as co-labourer is itself a high distinction; the association with whom would task the powers of any intellect, and must therefore demand from me the exertion of my utmost ability, that I may not prove an unworthy laggard in the course of action in which we are to be together engaged.

I return, after an interval of more than a third of a century, hither, to this city, where my professional education was chiefly received, to mingle in advanced life with many of the companions of my early years, who have made themselves names, and achieved deserved eminence; to renew the friendly rivalry of by-gone times, entered upon when our hopes were glowing and our purposes elevated by youthful enthusiasm; to congratulate them upon their successes,

and condole with them upon our mutual and inevitable failures; to take counsel with them how best the advancement of our Divine Science and the interests of frail and suffering humanity may be promoted; and with them to offer up the last hours of earthly existence in urging forward the gratifying progress of knowledge and philanthropy.

You will then allow me, without the imputation of insincerity, to express the anxious feeling of self-distrust with which I contemplate my position, and the unaffected diffidence with which I enter upon its arduous functions. I should indeed shrink from assuming responsibilities of such magnitude, from incurring obligations so weighty and so difficult to discharge, if I were not sustained and animated by the determined resolution to spare no pains in the performance of the duties allotted me; to withhold myself from no requisite labour within my bodily and mental capacity; and conscientiously to devote myself to the service of this Institution, and the good of the profession to which I belong. Thus impelled, thus supported, I trust I shall approve myself not altogether inadequate to the offices I have entered upon, and that—with an experience of more than an ordinary life-time spent in practising and teaching our useful and complicated art,—I shall be able to communicate to you all available elementary instruction in its doctrines and precepts, and their application to the necessities of the sick and afflicted. Let me call upon you also for similar diligence and devotion. Let our common aims be wide and lofty; our efforts earnest and unremitting; and the hours we shall pass together here, in speaking and listening, shall not, surely, be spent entirely in vain.

I know not how I can better occupy your attention on this occasion than by presenting to you a sketch of the character and history of my distinguished predecessor. For the performance of this labour of love so gracefully transferred to me by my eminent friend and colleague in his elo-

quent discourse of yesterday evening, I possess, indeed, the qualifications, and those only, which he so feelingly indicated, of long intimacy, and unbroken attachment, and familiar intercourse.

To accomplish satisfactorily such a task, however, demands the practised skill of a true artist, and I can scarcely flatter myself with any confident expectation of success; finding consolation in the hope that the ardour of a warm friendship may supply the defect of genius or talent. To preserve a likeness faithfully without falling on the one hand into dull and common-place delineation, and on the other to dwell with proper force yet without exaggeration on the salient points which give individuality, and separate characteristically each from every other, is indeed difficult. In some strongly featured and rudely marked personages these distinctions are prominent and readily seized; but the more refined and delicate traits of the higher order of examples—such as we are now about to hold up to view—are not to be slightly appreciated, or drawn without careful nicety.

The lives of professional and scientific men are not often illustrated by great events or incidents of stirring excitement. We ask, rather, of such men, how they have employed their silent hours; what they have thought, written, spoken; what trace they have left upon the opinions of their contemporaries; what direction they have given to the current of feeling and sentiment, and what modification impressed upon the conduct of their own and the coming time.

Of the physician we inquire what principle he discovered or elucidated; what suggestion of improved treatment made in any instance; what doubts removed; what pangs alleviated; what novel remedy, or better adaptation of an old one was there offered by him.

He who has sown the fruitful seed of one new and useful

idea; made one available observation; removed by his genius or industry one impediment to the reception or application of a valuable truth; or by his diligence or energy rendered accessible to the many what was before only within the exclusive reach of a favoured few, may well be said to have lived worthily and to good purpose. The story of the course of such a man, of one who has done all this, cannot but be instructive to those who will attentively consider it.

It is unfortunately the fact that many young men set out upon the great journey of existence without a chart,—nay, without a goal; without even a defined aim, an arranged or settled purpose. Deeply is it to be regretted that so many comport themselves as though, in the great game of life, all were to be left to chance and circumstance: that they hope for and anticipate triumph without availing themselves of the necessary and relevant means of deserving and reaching it; or if of opposite temperament, sink under the fear of discomfiture, without forethought of the errors which lead to it, or care to inquire for and avoid them. Biography is too little read by our youth, on whom should be impressed the maxim, that in the recorded experience of their elders will be found the best rules for their future guidance. They are too apt to imagine that the voyage before them will be long or short, prosperous or adverse, calm or disturbed, according to contingencies over which they can exert no control, and which therefore they need not seek to foresee or calculate. Too late do they learn that the prudent and watchful navigator will attain a safe harbour, over the same troubled waves, across the same stormy sea, beneath the same dark sky; driven by the same tempestuous winds, and tossed by the same opposing currents that have made shipwreck of the careless, the improvident, the unwise. Nay, that while the former will often through the severest toil, and the most embarrassing entanglements compel a victory from reluctant fate, and urge his steadfast way

through all difficulties and obstacles, so the latter, not seldom, for want of vigilance and preparation, strikes upon some unnoticed rock, even while propelled forward by a favouring gale; or, heedlessly pressing on, misses his projected course, and wanders far from the port for which he took his departure, under the most prosperous circumstances, and most auspicious omens.

I will pourtray before you—briefly, of necessity—a life marked by those features which it is always useful and exhilarating to look upon; a life of fixed purpose, early decision, persevering energy, patient courage; resulting in the formation of a lofty and exemplary character, the attainment of high distinction and wide reputation, usefulness and honour; a career truly enviable; a position of unquestioned eminence; a death full of calm magnanimity, quiet resignation, gratitude and peace; and you will not, you cannot fail to be impressed by the lesson, and to rise from hearing it, however imperfectly it may be written and read to you, wiser and better men.

John Kearsley Mitchell commenced his professional studies in the year 1816 in this country, having taken his academical degrees in the world-renowned University of Edinburgh. He had then attained his 23d year, and had returned to Virginia, his native State, whence he had been sent when a mere boy to receive his education in Scotland, the land of his fathers. He became the pupil of Dr. Chapman, then Professor of the Institutes and Practice of Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania, the venerable Alma Mater of so many of us—of so large a proportion of the graduated physicians of these United States—long may she continue to flourish! and in the office of his preceptor enjoyed the best opportunities of that day, and availed himself so well of them, as to graduate with the marked favour of that eminent instructor. His health was at that time frail,—I well remember his being seized with hæmoptœe one

day while sitting by my side in the lecture-room—and to improve it he made three voyages to the East, taking charge professionally of a merchant ship to Canton and Calcutta. Thus his medical experience began early, and he was not likely to lose any occasion by which he might profit. We meet with the traces of his eastern travel frequently during his after-life; but the only *direct* public record left of it is in the history of a curious *double*, a Chinese, A-ki by name; who presented, as an extraordinary appendage, projecting from his epigastrium, an undeveloped twin brother. The description, contained in one of the early volumes of Chapman's Philadelphia Journal, is full of interest; and for precision and graphic clearness of detail is a model of its kind.

On his return to America he went at once into practice here, and soon gathered around him a circle of clients which expanded uninterruptedly, until he occupied as large a field as he desired. His success was not more remarkable than well deserved. As a cultivator of the healing art his special qualities were an untiring assiduity, attentive observation, shrewd apprehension, close, thoughtful investigation, ready decision, and unhesitating action, fruitful ingenuity of resource, a free untrammelled originality, and a habit of quick analysis; all combined with and wrought upon the most considerate feeling and the kindest sympathy. He showed himself to be little moved by the vacillation of medical doctrines about him; and, with a certain degree of contempt for the extremes to which opposing parties would suffer themselves to be driven, adhered to the old, or accepted the new, as they commended themselves to his reason and judgment, with equal independence.

In the year 1822 he became a teacher; associating himself with several estimable gentlemen, some of whom are still living, in the first summer school of medicine established in this city. One of the departments on which he lectured was Medical Chemistry. Here he found a fair field for

many of his powers. He was a nice manipulator, a most successful experimenter, and a fluent speaker. Gifted by nature with a glowing imagination, he soon displayed that inventive genius which constitutes one mode of development of the imaginative, creative, poetic faculty. Some of his methods of inquiry were both new and excellent; and his utter fearlessness led him to repeat without hesitation the most dangerous experiments.

By one of those accidents which happen exclusively to observing men and acute reasoners, he was led to the discovery of "the penetrativeness of fluids;" and with equal manual adroitness and logical acumen he proceeded to establish the principle, and derive from it "the valuable lessons both in philosophy and medicine" which were legitimately capable of such deduction. Long previously, while investigating Magendie's theory of venous absorption, he saw the diaphragm of a living cat coloured blue by placing a solution of prussiate of potass on one side, and of sulphate of iron on the other. At that time he supposed the mode of intermixture to be vascular; but his subsequent employment of caoutchouc, which *he* first, by the use of ether, formed into thin plates, sheets, and bags, and afterwards of various animal membranes, satisfied him that it ought to be referred to "organic molecular infiltration." He proved that "substances formed of organic matter are generally penetrable by gases of all kinds, and by several, if not all fluids: that each animal or vegetable tissue is differently penetrable as to time by different fluids; but that all fluids penetrate any particular substance at rates susceptible of being ascertained: and that this penetrativeness, though very considerable, is yet capable of being affected by extrinsic agency, such as pressure, and acts not only through tissues, but on gases and liquids, which mutually penetrate each other with different velocities."

From these ascertained facts he explained the diffusion of odours, offered new views of the theory of respiration,

and accounted for some phenomena in that process, for which there had existed previously no adequate rationale. He suggested that thus we "might understand the prodigious accumulation of gas in hysteria and epilepsy, and how emphysema and tympanitis may happen without secretion of gases or lesion of tissue, and how a spontaneous cure may take place." In this course of inquiry, in which he anticipated Graham, he was led to animadvert upon and correct some important errors into which Dutrochet had fallen, while elaborating his brilliant theory of Endosmose and Exosmose, then recently announced.

Being afterwards elected Professor of Chemistry in the Franklin Institute, he so much augmented the high reputation he had already achieved in the special department, that, when in 1840, he resigned his two lectureships and retired from chemical pursuits, his abandonment of the field on which he had won such deserved renown was much regretted. His large intellect, active, energetic and expansive, however, was not confined to any one range of topics, but, indeed, was alike fitted to expatiate in all. It was during this period, in 1830, that he became the Editor of Faraday's highly esteemed work on chemical manipulations, to which he contributed copious notes and additions. To no one on this side of the Atlantic, could this labour have been so appropriately assigned. It would not, indeed, have been easy to find anywhere an individual in whom the technical knowledge and all the requisite intellectual qualifications were so abundantly combined.

A lively interest having been excited throughout this country, by the statement that a French chemist had succeeded in liquefying, and even solidifying carbonic acid, until then only known in the gaseous form, and no description of the means employed, nor of the instruments used, having been published, Dr. Mitchell, with his usual zeal and enterprise, set himself to effect the object. Aided by a

letter from a friend, who had seen the experiment, and by some drawings, perhaps, he contrived an apparatus for the purpose, still preferred by many operators, and employed by my respected colleague, the Professor of Chemistry, in his course of lectures. With this he was able to repeat most of the experiments of M. Thillorier, and to revise some, and correct others of his results. "A wonderful production of cold attends the solidification of carbonic acid, which then resembles moistened snow, being of perfect whiteness, and of a soft and spongy texture. It evaporates rapidly, becoming thereby colder and colder; the temperature sinking in the open air to -109° of Fahr.; in a vacuum to -136° , the atmosphere surrounding being at 86° ." "When a piece of this solid acid," says Dr. Mitchell, "is pressed against a living animal surface, it drives off the circulating fluids, and produces a ghastly white spot. If held there 15 seconds, it raises a blister; and if the application be continued for two minutes, a deep white depression with an elevated margin is perceived; the part is killed, and a slough is in time the consequence. I have thus produced both blisters and sloughs, by means nearly as prompt as fire, but much less alarming to my patients."

I well recollect the sanguine expectations which he then expressed to me in reference to the employment of this frozen and condensed gas, as a motive power. He had reasoned himself at least into the hope that the expansion of this solid body again during the process of its resumption of its ordinary condition, would be attended or followed by the exertion of an immense elastic force, at once energetic and manageable, similar to that manifested in the generation of steam from water. It is easy to conceive how much would have been gained, if these anticipations had proved correct, in the saving of space and of cost in fuel. And although time has shown them to be nothing more than the dreams of enthusiasm, yet it is by such dreams of

ardent and imaginative inventors, like Watt and Stevenson, that the world's progress goes on, and the condition of our race is improved.

It must not be supposed that he suffered himself all this while to be absorbed exclusively in these purely scientific pursuits. Far from it. We trace his uninterrupted attention to his profession throughout this period, by contributions furnished from time to time, in the Medical Journals, on numerous and diversified topics. The first paper which I find published with his name affixed, after he took up his abode here, is a "History of the natural and modified small-pox, as it prevailed in Philadelphia, in the years 1823 and 1824, by Drs. J. K. Mitchell and John Bell, attending Physicians at the then Small-pox Hospital," by the latter of whom this compilation of their common observations and opinions was prepared. I regard this essay as among the best, as it is one of the earliest expositions extant, of the facts now familiar to the profession. It will be seen that Dr. Mitchell and his distinguished collaborator, were the very promptest to recognise and set forth clearly and forcibly the views entertained every where at the present day of the nature and degree of influence of Vaccine over Variola as a universal modifier, but as a preventive or prophylactic sometimes partial, and sometimes of temporary effect.

In 1828, being then one of the physicians to the Pennsylvania Hospital, he gave, in Chapman's Journal, the result of his eastern experience in reference to chronic dysentery, one of the most unmanageable of known diseases. I doubt whether modern practice has improved, as yet, in any notable manner or degree, upon the method of treatment he here lays down.

In the same year we observe him exhibiting his mechanical ingenuity, in the invention of an instrument for facilitating the introduction of ligatures into and around deep-seated parts, as in cases of fistula, and the like.

In 1831, he published an "Essay on a new Practice in acute and chronic Rheumatism;" and two years after a second on the same subject. He brings forward here a novel pathology of the disease, which he maintains with cogent reasoning, and, as is his custom, submits it at once to the test of therapeutical applications of relevant character; always ready to admit the force of the argument *a posteriori*, and accept the maxim, "*naturam morborum curationes ostendunt.*" Regarding "genuine translateable rheumatism" as always "dependent on, and an effect of irritation of the great nervous masses at the centre," he questions whether it is ever "a primary affection of the limbs and joints," and consistently prefers to address his remedies to the special seat of morbid action, the spinal column. These remedies were always found most influential "when applied exactly over the place of exit of the nerves of the part inflamed." The extraordinary facility with which most of the recorded cases "were cured by exclusive spinal treatment, goes far," as he contends, "to establish the doctrine" propounded. He gives a tabular statement of thirty-five cases, treated in his new and peculiar method, twenty-two of which were cured within eight days. He selected cupping as the most potent means, yet he tells us that "a good rubefacient procured great relief, and sometimes a cure."

When we reflect on the remarkable tenacity of this justly-dreaded malady, its indomitable character, and the well-known uncertainty of all the ordinary and routine methods of management in controlling it, or diminishing its tedious duration, we shall better appreciate the value of these suggestions. One of the most esteemed and experienced physicians of London, Dr. Warren, when asked what he had found "the best cure for rheumatism," replied abruptly,—"*six weeks!*" and Sydenham, it will be remembered, who began with V. S. and other heroic appliances, ended, almost hopelessly, with "*serum lactis.*"

It is now universally admitted that the disease is by no means a mere local inflammation—a point which Dr. Mitchell was, if not the first, certainly one of the earliest to recognise clearly and apply definitely in his therapeutic. The humoral doctrine, as taught by Fuller and others, is now prevalent, of its origin in and dependence upon some form of blood-poisoning; and the efforts of scientific practitioners are most assiduously directed to the removal or correction of this morbid matter, and the palliation or change of the conditions arising from its alleged presence. But even if this view be established, not the less earnestly should we aim meanwhile at the immediate relief of sufferings, which plainly arise out of an abnormal state of the nervous system, a derangement and disturbance, inflammatory or otherwise, of some of its parts.

In 1832 he reported, in the American Medical Journal, a most interesting instance of the removal of “spasm and severe pain by ligature.” Cramps of external muscles, spasmodic visceral affections, with nausea and intense agony, were controlled by the vehement pressure of a tourniquet tightly applied around the middle of the forearm of the patient. Like acupuncture, the remedy is originally Japanese, from which source he derived the idea of experimenting with it. He seems, with all his shrewdness of theorizing, to shrink from any speculation upon the fact, or any hypothesis upon the *modus agendi*; and we are left to conjecture whether the result here—as in the analogous and equally obscure example of the efficiency of a ligature above the seat of aura in epilepsy—depends upon a mere hæmostasis, or rather on some influence exerted directly on the sensorial portion of our complicated organism; an arrest of the circulation of nervous fluid, if such fluid exists; or a partial paralysis of sensation—anæsthesia—from pressure.

To the first volume of Hays' American Cyclopædia of

Medicine and Surgery, a work whose abandonment is greatly to be regretted, Doctor Mitchell contributed, in 1836, "an article on the Chemical and Pharmaceutical History and Toxicological effects of Arsenic." This full but condensed treatise displays great research; discussing the whole subject with remarkable accuracy, and a minuteness of detail which renders it highly valuable not only to the student, but to the practitioner also, who will refer to it with advantage whenever called to a case of poisoning, or summoned before a coroner's inquest or a court of criminal justice.

In 1842, Prof. Mitchell read, before the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, a paper containing "the result of personal observations and investigations during five years on Mesmerism." Some time previously he had sent me a printed, but not published, letter, addressed to myself, in which he informs me that "in conjunction with some medical friends, he is now submitting animal magnetism to a rigid scrutiny. We take care (he says) to perform all the manipulations ourselves, and select our own subjects." He then goes on to detail the conclusions so far arrived at in this judicious course of experiment. They differ little from those which were afterwards laid formally before the college, and are very much in accordance with the views now entertained by the scientific world. 6

There is surely something well adapted to excite the imagination in the unquestionable coma, stupor, anæsthesia, and other obscure conditions occasionally manifested. Dr. Mitchell set aside, of course, after due examination, the miraculous claims of rapport, clairvoyance, and other similar delusions; but, after all proper deductions have been made for error and imposture, the impartial observer is still compelled to confess that there remains an unexplained residuum of curious and interesting fact.

La Place himself was sufficiently impressed with "the

singular phenomena," as he designates them, "which gave birth to the belief in the existence of a new agent, called animal magnetism," to admit that it would be scarcely philosophical to deny its existence: and Cuvier, going still farther, acknowledges "that the proximity of two animated bodies has a real effect, independent of all participation of the imagination. It appears clear enough, also," he goes on to say, "that this effect is owing to a certain communication established between their nervous systems."

I know nothing which requires more moral courage on the one hand, and on the other, more self-reliance and power of logical analysis than an inquisition into the grounds of credibility, the fundamental truth, if any there be, of whatever popular belief or delusion, in the day of its sweeping prevalence and epidemic sway. Scientific men are always reluctant to enter upon any such inquiry; because of the intrinsic difficulty of evolving from the mass of error and falsehood the intermixture of absolute reality which may be embodied in it, and give it its temporary life. Thus the ignorant and uneducated are left to be led astray by those who find an interest in deceiving them. Nay, what is still worse, there is a proportion of excitable, impressible and credulous persons among the better informed class, who are ever liable to fall into, and so communicate strength and weight to these wide-spreading mystifications. It is well, therefore, that we occasionally meet with a truly scientific intelligence, ready and willing to labour, however unthankfully, for the protection of their weaker brethren; as we find the sagacious Faraday, recently taking pains to expose the fallacies of so-called spiritualism. Without committing myself, then, to all the deductions of Braid of Newcastle, or of Prof. Mitchell—without even admitting, what I really doubt, that there is any thing positively *objective* in the causation of the phenomena of mesmerism, a series of manifestations which may originate altogether *sub-*

jectively, or within the patient, I do not hesitate to say that we owe them a serious debt of gratitude for their perseverance and ingenuity in exposing folly and imposture, and arresting the almost universal tendency to the admission of extraordinary and revolting revelations. "The shadowy things of artificial somnambulism," wrote the latter, "have long enough displayed their visionary forms on the sky of human wonder. It is time to give them that true import which will take them from the mountebank and pretender, and place them in the hands of philosophy."

I will add but one word more. In the recently published Clinical Lectures of the acute and ingenious Prof. J. Hughes Bennett, of Edinburgh, he selects two great facts as demanding, from their special importance, the universal attention of the medical men of the present day. Of the second of these thus emphatically brought before us—"the power (namely) which it has been demonstrated may be exercised over certain diseases of innervation through the influence of suggestion or strong impressions made upon the mind," it is plain that no better exposition can be offered than has been wrought out for us in the series of experiments conducted by Dr. Mitchell.

In the year 1849 he published a small volume containing six lectures "on the cryptogamous origin of malarious and endemic fevers," extending his views, however, so as to comprise also cholera, the plague, and yellow fever. He had taught the doctrines herein promulgated, in his annual course of lectures for several years previous. His preface contains a note from a committee of his class in 1847, requesting their publication. They are dedicated "to the Candidates for Graduation in the Jefferson Medical College of the Session of 1846, '47," as having been "delivered to them nearly in their present shape." They were soon after offered to Dr.—now Sir John—Forbes, for his reprint of American Medical Tracts; but his plan, not embracing

unpublished MSS., excluded them. He, however, urged that they should be printed without delay, as an interesting novelty. Still farther back, we have a note from the lamented Prof. Bailey, of West Point, replying to a letter from Prof. Mitchell, in which he says,—“You make out a very strong case on the fungous origin of fevers.” These statements put an end to all possible question “concerning the paternity” of the new theory. The work of Dr. Cowdell, ascribing cholera asphyxia to the dissemination of fungous sporules, did not appear until 1848.

Dr. Mitchell's very ingenious dissertation added largely to his already wide-spread fame, and will long survive as a most excellent and erudite treatise upon the general topic. Nowhere will be found, in so small a compass, so thorough a review of the doctrines, misty and unsatisfactory, which have so long prevailed, and which still obtain, indeed, among physicians, in reference to the obscure but potent agency, to which we attribute the periodical fevers of warm and temperate climates, and which we suspect of originating a host of other maladies.

It is not too much to affirm that no other offered explanation of the collated facts applies so widely or plausibly as the one here brought forward; and, though not altogether free from objection, or capable of resolving all the difficulties presented, it is conceived and sustained in a truly philosophic spirit. After making a forcible exhibition of the insufficiency of all previous solutions of the great problem, our author has displayed the very frequent, if not uniform, coincidence of the presence of abundant cryptograms in malarious situations; their almost universal poisonous qualities; their nocturnal activity; and their capacity of entering the vessels of the living body, and circulating with its fluids.

Beginning with the arguments which prove the necessity of referring the causation of malarious fevers to an agent

possessed of organic vitality, and the power of progressive development and re-production, he propounds strong reasons for preferring hypothetically, of the two forms of life, the vegetative to the animalcular. Of all the modifications of this form he is then led to select the fungi, on account of "their vast number, extraordinary variety, minuteness, and climatic peculiarities. Their spores resemble animal cells so closely, that they have the power of penetrating into, and germinating upon, the most interior tissues of the human body. Many cutaneous diseases are proved to depend upon cryptogamous vegetation, which even affects obviously the mucous membrane." The marked fungiferous condition of many localities during epidemics and epizootics is much dwelt on, and its independence of the hygrometric and other notable states of the atmosphere. The fact that "the season of greatest photophytic activity everywhere is also everywhere the sickly season," is forcibly urged. The nocturnal efflorescence of fungi is shown to be in accordance with the known liability to the special invasion of these fevers by night; and a minute application of the theory to their familiar history is made, in every direction, to show in detail that all apparent contradictions are better explained, and all difficulties more readily surmounted by its aid than in any other suggested method.

On the whole, I am entirely willing to accept his conclusion "that, although the theory thus presented is not fully demonstrated, it may be regarded as the most consistent with the phenomena known at present, and better sustained than any other by facts. It has, therefore, the requisites of a philosophical theory, which in other and more exact sciences would be accepted, not to be held as absolutely true, but as, in the existing state of our knowledge, the most plausible and convenient explanation of the phenomena."

Dr. Mitchell was elected, in 1841, to the chair of Practice of Medicine in this Institution. How he filled it, is

known everywhere. He was one of those to whose brilliant and unremitting efforts must be ascribed the steady and rapid rise of the school, and its elevation to a position of usefulness and honour, inferior to none other in any country. He must ever enjoy a fair share of the distinction attached to such well-merited and substantial success: his friends need not ask for more in his behalf.

His method of instruction was simple; his diction clear and fluent; his language concise and forcible. Full of illustration, appropriate recital, and relevant anecdote, he never allowed the interest of his hearers to falter. Original as was his habit of thought, free and untrammelled as he was by precedent, authority, or routine, he never sought novelty for its own sake, or for the petty gratification of startling or confounding the listener. Whenever, then, he announced a view or doctrine as new and peculiar to himself, he was sure of earnest attention, which he always repaid by ingenious suggestion, available inference, and valuable application.

His remarkably handsome person, striking presence—his noble air and refined manner, that of the perfect gentleman, commanded the respect of his classes; the kindness of his heart and the unmistakable tokens of his friendly sympathy and social cordiality, attracted their warm regard, and won their affection. No teacher ever enjoyed a more universal or permanent popularity.

Among his peers he stood esteemed and honoured; courteous to all, he was frank and hospitable with those who sought his intimacy. I need not speak here of his assiduous devotion to his duties. Even when sinking under the burden of physical ailment, his unconquerable spirit never quailed for an instant; he presented himself with punctual regularity at his appointed hour, and, by the mere force of his inexhaustible energy, at once raised himself to an equality with the exigencies of the occasion. Failure was not pos-

sible with him but in the absolute extinction of capacity. I have been taught to regard courage as one of the loftiest of the virtues; without whose accompaniment, indeed, no other virtue can maintain itself or preserve its character. The brave soldier and the sailor, and, far above them both, the daring fireman, deserve our unqualified admiration; but the quiet firmness which, self-involved and sufficient for its own support, struggles on day after day, and through the long nights of solitary restlessness, during weary weeks and months of suffering and infirmity, refusing to yield, and accomplishing its fixed purposes to the last—this is the courage beyond and superior to all, and this was the courage of him of whom I speak—my friend! my brother!

In social life he was always prominent. Instinct with genial cheerfulness, he was the delight of a large and varied circle. Quick of conception, ready in reply, witty, eloquent and sparkling, he shone even here, in a community long notorious for its social brilliancy. Few men know how to converse. Many talk well and freely; argue, debate, utter sharp and striking phrases, dogmatize, but conversation is a rare art. Not one in a thousand was so well skilled in it as Dr. Mitchell; and numbers who have casually met him in public places and the haunts of travellers, have bent to listen to him with wondering pleasure, and carried away from their accidental association with him, however transient, the most agreeable and abiding reminiscences.

In all humane and charitable societies to which he belonged, and they were many,—he held a marked position. President of the St. Andrew's Society of this populous metropolis—Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of Pennsylvania, he wore his dignities becomingly, and exerted through them a wide and beneficial influence over the community. One of his most impressive and elegant addresses is an "Essay on the value of a great medical reputation" delivered as an Introductory Lecture. No better

example than his own could be offered of the real value of such a reputation. Through it he first entitled himself to the confidence and regard of those around him; through it he first made his way to eminence and distinction. But this eminence only served to display the wide range of admirable qualities by which he was fitted to occupy all spheres of usefulness and honour; and thus he became still more extensively useful and honoured.

He was not a very voluminous author, but he has left behind him many monographs and essays which will not perish. He employed his pen not for fame, but for duty and philanthropy. Besides those already noticed I would specify a paper "on corpora lutea;" one "on curvature of the spine;" an essay "on the practical interrogation of nature;" "Lectures on the means of elevating the character of the working classes;" and lastly, a Lecture, which met with a most gratifying reception every where, upon "the wisdom, power, and goodness of God, as illustrated in the properties of water."

line ?
A volume of poems remains to exhibit his versatility of talent. His cultivated imagination and practised ear led him to facile versification; and his fine taste gave neatness and the charm of musical diction to his productions in this kind. There are two of these of some length and sustained effort, entitled "Saint Helena," and "Indecision, or the Far West," which show a lively fancy, and much ready command and choice of language. Many of the descriptions of scenery they contain are graphic and picturesque. The minor lyrical pieces, several of which have been set to music, are melodious, delicate and graceful.

I promised to present you with an example for imitation, and a lesson for guidance and instruction. Let us review the course of our lamented friend, and impress this lesson and example upon our memories.

No one can regard without admiration his early career;

his settled purpose of improvement, a plan arranged while yet a pupil, the details of which I can recall as though we had conversed upon it but yesterday, comprising the highest aims of young ambition and the most coveted rewards of merit; his active enterprise; his indefatigable diligence; his irrepressible energy, and his untiring perseverance. Surely one might have predicted with confidence all imaginable triumphs when such qualities presented themselves in the arena.

If we survey the formation and development of his character from youth to manhood, and from the prime of life on toward his declining years, we shall find him to have been ever observant, cheerful, frank, benevolent, earnest, patient, brave, gentle, courteous and reverential. His mind we shall perceive to have been quick and intelligent, inquisitive and eager after truth and knowledge; ingenious in instituting and selecting methods of research. He was daring in the pursuit of inquiry, and unembarrassed in the formation and expression of his sentiments and opinions; steadfast in his conclusions; full of imagination and vivacity; tasteful, and ever ready to love and admire the true, the beautiful and the good.

His writings are characteristic in many ways; his style unwarped by mannerism, is simple and transparent; his propositions are always definite and tersely stated; his reasoning logical and analytic; his deductions are forcibly drawn, and, perhaps the more on account of his poetic temperament—always practical, palpable and directly available.

His activity and usefulness through a long and busy life, spent in the uninterrupted exercise of his multifarious functions, may be fairly inferred from the variety of testimonials proceeding from the most diversified sources, loudly proclaiming the wide spread lamentation for his loss; a loss not easily to be supplied in any one of the numerous circles in

which he was an esteemed associate. His whole career indeed may be traced by the well merited acknowledgments of his services met with at every step; from patients and friends; from charities which he had aided; public institutions for which he had laboured; social movements for the general good, or for private improvement, which he had originated, or in which he had largely partaken. Time would fail me if I were to attempt even a mere enumeration of such records, now lying before me.

As a practitioner he occupied an eminent place. His entrance into the sick chamber brought sunshine; hope and gratitude followed his footsteps. With gentle sympathy he comforted the wretch whom his skill could not avail to relieve; and heavy indeed must have been the burden of calamity which his kindness did not lighten. His field of usefulness and fame was extended far and wide; and it is but recently that, on mentioning his decease to the Chief Officer of government of a distant State, I was responded to by an expression of deep regret, with the remark that a very short time previously a letter of consultation had been written to Dr. Mitchell in behalf of one of the members of his family, and an answer received, most courteous and satisfactory. His general benevolence was as well known as his name; and the blessings of the widow and the fatherless are heaped upon his tomb.

As a citizen he was never backward in the performance of the duties incumbent upon every member of a republic. His political opinions, formed disinterestedly and without bias or prejudice, were unshrinkingly avowed, and maintained with so much readiness and force, with such warmth and eloquence, as to impress his co-partisans with a confident belief in his capacity for the public service, and a strong desire to avail themselves of his influence and ability.

Of his more intimate relations with those nearly connected

to him, I scarcely dare trust myself to speak. An ardent, true, and confiding friend; a tender and conscientious father; a most devoted and affectionate husband; his presence, his sympathy, his gentle aid and counsel, his ready resource in distress or difficulty, made him a most cherished and beloved associate and companion; honoured, esteemed, revered.

His death was in fitting consistency with his well-rounded life and character. He had, naturally, shrunk from the anticipation of a slow and lingering descent into the dark valley whose shadows could not appal him; and, when made aware of the rapid progress of the fatal disease which found him, in his enfeebled health, an easy prey, he uttered, in thankful submission, a touching expression of gratitude to the great Father of mercies, that he was so much more briefly to be released, and was thus spared the tedious form of suffering and decay he had so greatly dreaded.

He died on the 4th day of April, 1858, of an attack of Pneumonia, in the 65th year of his age. For two years previously he had been somewhat hemiplegic, a condition resulting from a cerebral affection which had suddenly assailed him in 1856, and against which his originally vigorous constitution had maintained an unyielding and, in great degree, successful struggle. During this period, his mental activity continued without any perceptible diminution, and he contended, with unexampled constancy and fortitude, against the depressing physical debility, inseparable from his circumstances. In the performance of his numerous and important duties here and elsewhere, he would have been known to be an invalid only by a slight irregularity in his walk, and a barely noticeable impairment of his habitually fluent and precise enunciation. He persisted, throughout, in reading up to the very farthest point of progress in his careful preparation for his daily lectures; and his clinic showed no decline in his remarkable shrewdness of investigation, and promptness of decision. I have witnessed, in

the whole course of my life, nothing more impressive than the stern and unbending resolution with which he bore himself up, in this ultimately hopeless contest, against the impending evils of advancing age, and ever threatening infirmity.

In thus contemplating the extinction of one of the brightest lights in the professional constellation of our time, it will perhaps prove somewhat interesting to consider the nature and extent of the honours and rewards which are held out by modern civilization to the successful and eminent physician, such as he of whom I have been speaking. I need not, in this place and before this audience, dwell upon the absolute completeness of self-sacrifice demanded of the practitioner of medicine by the community in whose service he expends his entire capacity of action, bodily and mental. I need not describe the toils he must have encountered, the tedious and burdensome labours he must have gone through, the weary days, the anxious night-watches of study, to fit him for his high duties. In all times and places, the brethren of our order have addressed themselves, with the faithful and conscientious exertion of all their energies, to mitigate the sufferings of their fellow-men. It is ours to act the sleepless sentinel at the bedside of the sick; to wait there through the noontide heats, the darkening twilight, and all the gloomy hours until the gray dawn, that we may avert the approach of whatever injurious influences, offer every gentle solace, catch the first ray of a new hope, and seize upon the earliest favourable movement in which to interpose our kindly aid in his behalf. While others fly before the coming plague, it is ours to remain near the noisome couch; to inhale the foul breath; to dwell in close contact with the deadly products of disease, in the resolute endeavour to wrest even from the grasp of the destroyer some salutary instruction. Nay, to protect and preserve the living, we defy the very vapours of

the charnel-house, and breathe the revolting effluvia from the dead.

I could stir your hearts as with the sound of a trumpet, by the description of the devoted zeal with which these researches have been pressed by our profession every where. Like the Prometheus of the Greek drama, it has been our pride and joy to struggle against fate herself, and traverse with unbending determination the evil current of destiny. It is ours to stand "in the imminent deadly breach;" to repel the contagion that infects whole nations; to arrest the course of the pestilence; to put limits to the sway of the remorseless King of Terrors.

In the more familiar exercise of our daily functions we are ever called upon to sustain the fainting strength, and the desponding spirit; to restore impaired vigour, and renew lost powers of action and enjoyment. We are invoked to "minister to the mind diseased," to relieve the tortured fancy from the horrors of a gloomy delirium; to regulate and control the wildness of the stormy will; to temper the violence of morbid passion; and to reseat the tottering intellect upon a steady throne. These offices demand for their adequate execution a rare degree of moral equipoise, an utter abnegation of self, a more thorough annealing of soul, a firmness of resolution of more inflexible grade and of finer texture, than all the other avocations of life. No transient enthusiasm, no mere excitement of avarice or ambition, can sustain us throughout this protracted self-oblation. No crowd surrounds us to offer the incense of applause; to stimulate us with the intoxicating impulse and exhilaration of its sympathies, and by its huzzas to increase the triumph of victory, or cheer the sullen gloom of the grave. Yet, of the thousands of our brethren who have, Curtius-like, leaped into the gulf, and thrown away their lives for their fellows, not one as we fondly believe, not one has failed to find his obscure virtue its own rich reward; its silent audacity, its

patient endurance hallowed and illuminated by the delightful consciousness of doing good, the divine luxury of benevolence.

Nay, if any one should, by whatever error, be induced to enter among us, who does not feel himself warmed and spurred forward by such examples; who does not anticipate with glowing spirit the day when he too may join these shining ranks as a volunteer, and if need be, a martyr, I would tell him plainly that he has mistaken his calling; that he is not one of us; that he is not worthy to unloose the shoe-latchet of those, and such as those—knighterrant of philanthropy—and let them never be alluded to without profound reverence—who went down to die for the sake of humanity at Norfolk and Sandusky; and who, to the honour of our profession and of our common nature, are in every age and nation so numerous, that their biography would fill another library of Alexandria. He may be gifted and useful, but it must be in another sphere. He may found a city or invent some new and wonderful mechanism; he may win a naval battle, or ride red-hoofed over the mournful field of conquest; but unless he can possess his soul in tranquil cheerfulness amidst the busy solitude of a lazaret-house, and perform with alacrity the most menial and repugnant offices of kindness to an unknown pauper, he cannot, he never will be a physician.

What then is there to compensate us for all that we thus abandon; the pursuit of wealth, the possession of power, the excitement of popular applause, the hope of repose after labour in the declining years to come, and the expectation of a quiet old age!

The popular legislator, the eloquent advocate, the successful soldier, the enterprising merchant, and the industrious mechanic, each may grasp at the opulence and the official station open to them all, and which all may successfully contend for. But no wreath is twined by our western civilization for the brow of the cultivator of the

healing art; no form of public consideration or acknowledgment is offered him. There are for him no promises, no prospects of civic advancement. Upon all her other children the republic smiles; for him alone she has not one single glance of recognition or approval. Confounded, by her neglect, and even occasionally by her more contemptuous positive legislation, with the many-coloured empiric or the base vender of nostrums, neither privilege nor influence are within his reach; nor place nor pension await him to render less wretched the decay of waning life, or the protracted imbecility of old age.

Enough remains, however, and more than enough, to satisfy abundantly the cravings of a virtuous and elevated ambition. Though our institutions do not permit us the hope of rising, as in France, to academic and senatorial dignities, under a rich and powerful government; nor of obtaining, as in England, a barren title of knighthood, and a reluctant annuity; yet, to be tried by our peers, and rendered illustrious by their esteem and approbation—*laudari laudatis viris*—to be pointed out and distinguished by them as worthy of honour and remembrance! ~~Earth~~ *e* has no crown to offer more desirable and ennobling.

The personal respect, the cordial friendship, and the sincere gratitude of our patients, and the affectionate regard of the circle to which we belong, these are our support and solace amidst all our privations and toils; and constitute a more genial and dearer recompense than can possibly be won in any other of the avocations of civilized society.

Such was the enviable distinction, such the social position accorded to him, of whose course and character, of whose life-long labours and lofty attainments I have offered you a brief and most imperfect outline: such was the eminence of Mitchell, such is his memory; long destined to be preserved by the love, the reverence, the admiration and gra-

titude of the community in which he moved, the various circles in which he shone an honoured member, this institution which he aided to elevate, and our philanthropic profession which he illustrated and adorned.

While we cannot then, promise ourselves or those who enlist with us under the consecrated banner of our Divine Science, place, wealth, or fame, power or political influence, as the destined results of meritorious energy or zealous devotion, yet, if these are wanting in our humble sphere, we may well content ourselves with the far purer gratification, derived from the consciousness of duties fulfilled, and good actions performed from benevolent motives; with the recollections of a well-spent life; the filial trust in an approving God; and the confident hope of happiness beyond the grave.

THE END.

Nov. 14. 1858.

